



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

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NE HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

The Hurricane Season in New England is defined as June 1st to November 30th, although 75% of the 40 tropical systems that have impacted our region in the past century have struck during the months of August and September. To help increase public awareness of the effects hurricanes can have on the Commonwealth and the Preparedness steps we all must take, over the fourteen weeks of June, July and August, MEMA is again disseminating important information to ensure the continued safety of our citizens and property through weekly News Releases and postings on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema highlighting key issues relative to the New England Hurricane Season. Key Hurricane Topics include Massachusetts' Hurricane History, Preparedness Tips for Families, Home Owners, Populations Requiring Additional Assistance, Pet Owners, Boaters, Businesses, Inland Residents, as well as information about Sheltering-In-Place and Evacuation.

HURRICANE OF 1938 HIGH WATER MARK SIGN UNVEILED

On September 21, 1938, a major category 3 hurricane slammed into western New England, driving a 13-foot storm surge up Buzzards Bay. As a result, flood waters damaged or destroyed homes, businesses, roads, and railroad lines in Bourne, Wareham and other Buzzards Bay communities. To remind residents of their vulnerability to storm surge and to encourage Hurricane Preparedness, a sign marking the height of the Hurricane of 1938 flood has been installed and dedicated in front of the Bourne Fire Station on Main Street in Buzzards Bay Village on June 1st, the official start of the Hurricane Season. Additional information about the event and a photograph of the sign, are available at www.mass.gov/mema.

STATEWIDE HURRICANE CONFERENCE

The Statewide Hurricane Conference which was held at Devens Common Center on May 9th proved to be a great success. The conference provided almost 300 local Emergency Management and Public Safety officials an opportunity to learn more about various short-term and long-term hurricane preparedness topics as they get their communities ready for the 2012 Hurricane Season. Highlighted by Bill Read, Director of National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, a variety of presenters represented the National Weather Service, MEMA, FEMA, New England Cable News, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Department of Conservation & Recreation. This conference allowed participants to share ideas and gain knowledge through a series of break-out workshops, presentations, and panel discussions.

CSU INCREASE HURRICANE PREDICTIONS

The Colorado State University hurricane prediction team of Philip Klotzbach and William Gray increased their [2012 forecast](#) Friday, from 10 named storms forecast in April to 13. However, the pair

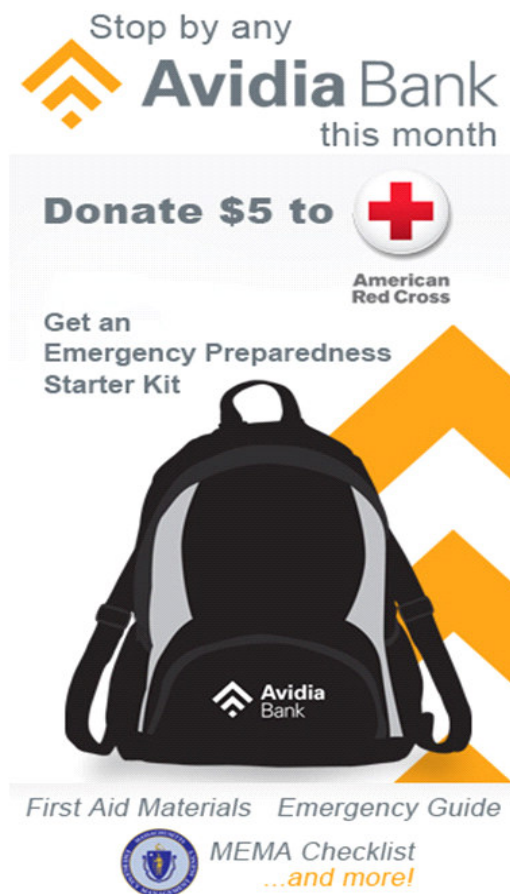
Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Secretary of Public Safety & Security
Kurt Schwartz, MEMA Director

basically stayed with their initial forecast for a relatively quiet season, since the 13 includes tropical storms Alberto and Beryl, which formed in May. So, Klotzbach and Gray are forecasting 11 additional named storms with five hurricanes and two major hurricanes. They still predict a below average chance of a landfalling major hurricane, Category 3 or higher, on the entire U.S. Coastline. The forecast information is available at <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/>.

MEMA, AVIDIA BANK, AMERICAN RED CROSS & CBS-BOSTON TEAM UP

In an effort to promote preparedness, MEMA has joined forces with Avidia Bank, CBS-Boston TV & Radio and the American Red Cross with a great promotion for the month of June. Stop by an Avidia Bank and make a \$5.00 donation to the American Red Cross to receive an Emergency Preparedness 'Starter Kit' which includes a Back Pack filled with helpful First Aid materials, a MEMA checklist and Emergency Guide. This program will be heavily promoted on WBZ TV4, WBZ Radio and the WBZ Website for the entire month.



NOAA HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

NOAA, in collaboration with FEMA and the American Red Cross put together an excellent hurricane preparedness guide that will be useful as we head into the 2012 hurricane season. Some of the topics featured in the guide include: Storm Surge and other tropical cyclone hazard basics; National Hurricane Center products – where to get them and how to interpret them; Information on Watches and Warnings; The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale; and Tropical Cyclone meteorology. Download the guide at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/hurricane/resources/TropicalCyclones11.pdf>.

DIRECTOR SCHWARTZ ANNOUNCES MEMA RESTRUCTURE

On May 21st, MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz announced a new organizational structure and staff additions at MEMA. Christine Packard has returned as Deputy Director for Emergency Management

Services overseeing three divisions: Planning, Nuclear and Preparedness; Mitigation & Disaster Recovery; and Response & Field Services. Mike Kass is now Deputy Director for Administrative Services overseeing the Technical Services Division, Public Information, the Project Management Office, Human Resources, Fiscal, and Communications. Paul Holloway has been hired as the Planning Unit Manager and Chris Besse has been hired to serve as the Preparedness Coordinator in the Planning, Nuclear and Preparedness Division.

MEMA LEADS THE WAY FOR NLE 2012

On June 5-7, MEMA took part in National Level Exercise 2012 (NLE 2012), the capstone event in a series of congressionally mandated national exercises designed to educate, prepare the country for catastrophic incidents. The focus of NLE 2012 was to examine the ability to coordinate and implement prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans for a significant Cyber related incident. MEMA led the Massachusetts response, as the Commonwealth became the nation's most active state during this entire event, utilizing the opportunity to train on and exercise the MA Cyber Disruption Annex and the updated State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Concept of Operations for managing resource requests. Information sharing and communication capabilities were tested. With multiple state and federal agencies participating, MEMA activated the SEOC to Level II (full) for the 3-day event. Participants included over 100 MEMA staff and Emergency Support Function (ESF) participants such as FEMA, MassDOT, MBTA, MassPort, MA National Guard, MA State Police, State Cyber Disruption Team, Fusion Center, State ITD, Executive Office of Public Safety Office of Technology & Information Services, Am. Red Cross, MA Dept. of Public Health, MA Dept of Environmental Protection, MA Dept. of Public Utilities, MA Environmental Police, and the FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Team. Both the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC) were used to activate both national and international mutual aid agreements. In-state Cyber-related challenges included a train derailment, chemical fire, public transportation disruptions (MBTA system down/portions of major highways closed/grounded flights), dam break (evacuations/relocating hospital patients), state computer and communication system and failures, water system impacts (water quality/loss of fire suppression capabilities), power outages, etc. The three days were very challenging and proved to be very successful; demonstrating the widespread, far-reaching impacts cyber attacks would have on our every-day life and the creative solutions necessary to overcome them.

HASSETT NAMED NESEC EMD OF THE YEAR

Springfield Emergency Management Director Robert Hassett was recently named the MA Emergency Manager of the Year (with a strong recommendation from MEMA) by the New England States Emergency Consortium (NESEC), an independent non-profit organization funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security made up of the six New England States, New York and New Jersey. 2011 was a year that MA saw an unprecedented four Presidential Declared Disasters including the January Nor'easter, the June 1 Tornado, Tropical Storm Irene and the October Blizzard, all of which had a major impact on Western MA, particularly the City of Springfield. A ceremony was recently held in Springfield to honor Hassett who was praised for his outstanding work helping to steer his city through these disasters by Mayor Domenic Sarno, Fire Commissioner Joseph Conant and MEMA Region III/IV Manager Patrick Carnevale.

MEOC & MCST SUPPORT CERT EXERCISE

On May 23rd, the Town of Bedford conducted a Search & Rescue drill for their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in the woods near Shawsheen Cemetery. MEMA provided support to the drill with the Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) and the Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST). The MEMA MEOC was utilized in the role of a SIM CELL (Simulation Cell) for control of the drill and to augment the field command post. The MEOC was used

as the primary command post for both CERT and local emergency responders to coordinate search efforts and collect information from the search teams. A GPS tracking program was displayed on the Smartboard in the MEOC, and used to aid the search of volunteers in the woods. The MEMA MCST was used for communications support assisting the local responders with radio requests and internet connectivity. A radio patch was created through the on board gateway for UHF users to communicate with 800MHz users that were involved with the exercise. Additionally, a cache of radios was dispersed for the field use. Many other agencies were on hand to support the drill, including north Eastern MA Law Enforcement Council's Incident Management Assistance Team (NEMLEC IMAT), Cambridge Auxiliary Fire, Bedford Fire and Police, and local Bedford Boy Scout Troop 194 to play the part of victims. The drill was very successful and all victims were located in a timely manner. Areas of improvement were identified and will be the focus of the next CERT training.

STATEWIDE WORKING GROUP PROJECTS

Mass Care Sheltering

The Statewide Mass Care Shelter Planning Project management Team is reviewing a preliminary Concept of Operations (ConOps) for Sheltering and Mass Care. The ConOps seeks to provide a consistent operations basis for local and regional shelter approaches that is scalable and sustainable. The ConOps will be shared stakeholders and revised as needed during the summer and fall.

Animal Sheltering

The Statewide Animal Sheltering Working Group met on May 22, 2012, and discussions included reviewing the list of tasks which have been developed to assist in completion of ongoing action items. Tasks currently being undertaken include development of the following: animal shelter planning presentation for local Emergency Management Directors; animal shelter template guide and shelter training program; resource contact list, standard operating procedures and notification process review. The Working Group will next meet via conference call on June 26, 2012

Mass Fatality Plan

A Mass Fatality Plan workshop is scheduled for June 15th in Barnstable, MA to review the state mass fatality plan with Cape officials. An accident scenario involving a Steamship Authority vessel will drive discussion of local, regional, and state planning response to a mass fatality event. The workshop is sponsored by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

TRAINING & EXERCISES

On May 10th, Jamie Rhome from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL presented a four-hour workshop on Storm Surge/Storm Forecasting 101 for MEMA staff in the MEMA HQ Training Room. This workshop was another great opportunity promoting internal training/education for MEMA staff.

MAY TRAINING UPDATE

During this past month, an additional 297 individuals attended 28 different classes receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas *ICS-100/NIMS-700, ICS-200-NIMS-700, ICS-300, Basic Public Information Officer, Resource Management System (RMS) Basic, RMS Administrator, Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools Train-the-Trainer, CERT Program Manager and CERT Train-the-Trainer*. Year-to-date, 810 have been trained. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

OCTOBER NOR'EASTER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Programs for those communities impacted by the October 29-30 Nor'easter, are moving forward with the aid process. Reimbursement payments are being disseminated, with the PA Program having obligated over \$9.9M to date. Additional information about the reimbursement process is available at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=16152>.

TROPICAL STORM IRENE ASSISTANCE

691 individuals have been approved for Tropical Storm Irene aid with over \$5.5M distributed through FEMA and 80 loans totaling \$3.4M through the SBA. FEMA's eGrant system has obligated \$22.9M to communities through its Public Assistance (PA) Program. Additional recovery details are available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=15596>.

WITH THE JUNE 1st ANNIVERSARY, TORNADO RECOVERY CONTINUES

1,074 individuals have been approved and received \$4.7M in individual assistance through FEMA. The SBA has distributed 283 loans totaling \$16.7M. To date, FEMA's eGrant system has obligated 64% of the Project Worksheets, totaling over \$21.7M to communities for PA. FEMA recovery information is available at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=14733>.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS REQUEST SUPPORT

One year after the June 1st Tornado tore through parts of western MA there are still unmet needs as families seek to rebuild their lives. Three Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) formed in the hardest hit areas and have been coordinating essential assistance for those impacted. These largely volunteer-led collaborations have been providing for the needs of individuals and families while they continue to recover from the storm. In coordination with FEMA, Massachusetts Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (MAVOAD) is seeking additional help for these individuals and families. Continuing needs include skilled laborers, committed volunteers, office space and financial donations which can immediately be applied to critical needs. For those interested in providing support please contact Boston Cares at disasterrelief@bostoncares.org or 617.420.2298. For additional information about how to volunteer, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

CRISIS COUNSELING CONTINUES FOR TORNADO SURVIVORS

Free crisis counseling continues to be available for residents of Hampden and Worcester counties who may be stressed, anxious or depressed due to the June 1st tornadoes. Those who want to take advantage of this confidential service may call (855) 915-8047, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The service is provided by the MA Department of Mental Health (MDMH) through their MassSupport Program and will be available through July 31, 2012. This service is funded by FEMA through a grant to MDMH.

CONSULAR CORPS WORKSHOP

On May 2nd, MEMA enhanced its close relationships with the various foreign Consulates located in Greater Boston by participating in the New England Consular Corps workshop on 'Domestic U.S. Disasters and Foreign Nationals'. The event, held at the Federal Reserve Bank Building in Boston, was hosted by the U.S. Department of State Office of Foreign Missions and FEMA. Subjects covered by the strong array of federal, state and local presenters included How to Help the U.S. after a Disaster; Information-Sharing with Federal, State & Local Emergency Management; Support to Local Consular Operations; the College & University System; the Role of the American Red Cross; the Role of Foreign Missions; and the Impacts of a MassPort Aircraft Incident.

MUTUAL AID NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW

The number of communities and governmental entities opting into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement continues to rise. To date, 227 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 157 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at www.mass.gov/mema. MEMA continues to encourage all cities and towns to take advantage of this opportunity. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

ISO-NEW ENGLAND ANNOUNCES ADEQUATE SUMMER ELECTRIC POWER

Under normal weather and system conditions, New England's electric power supplies are expected to be adequate to meet regional demand this summer, according to ISO New England Inc., the operator of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets. However, reduced and uncertain supplies of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to power generation in the Northeast MA/Greater Boston area during the summer could create local reliability challenges to that portion of the power grid if extreme summer weather conditions, with high consumer demand, occurs or if unexpected resource outages occur. Under normal weather conditions, all areas of the region's grid should have adequate supply. ISO is working with local generation and transmission companies to develop special operating plans that can be used to manage a shortage situation. In addition, the ISO has briefed the appropriate state and federal authorities and is continuously monitoring the situation in NEMA/Boston. ISO New England has well-established procedures in place to bring the system back into balance if electricity supplies get tight as a result of an unexpected resource outage, or if an extended heat wave causes consumer demand for electricity to spike. These actions could include calling on demand-response resources to curtail their energy use, importing emergency power from neighboring regions, and asking businesses and residents to voluntarily conserve energy. Additional details can be found at http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/pr/2012/final_2012_summer_capacity_outlook_050412.pdf.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS REPORT RELEASED

The 2012 National Preparedness Report (NPR), the first all-of-nation preparedness assessment, was released recently. It is part of President Obama's "*Presidential Policy Directive 8/PPD-8: National Preparedness*." FEMA worked with the full range of whole community partners, including all levels of government, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, communities, and individuals, to develop the NPR. The 2012 National Preparedness Report (NPR) summarizes how prepared we are as a Nation. It focuses on five mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. These mission areas organize the 31 core capabilities needed to achieve the National Preparedness Goal. The NPR identifies areas where the Nation has made significant progress, acknowledges remaining opportunities for improvement, and reinforces the important principles of national preparedness. The NPR focuses on threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to U.S. security and resilience. Risks include acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters. FEMA included recent, independent evaluations, surveys, and other data related to the core capabilities, as well as data from the 2011 State Preparedness Reports. All 56 U.S. states and territories conducted these statewide self assessments of the core capabilities. The full Report is at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=5902>.

WHOLE COMMUNITY PLANNING: THE UNTHINKABLE TABLETOP EXERCISE

FEMA began a new series of tabletop exercises in 2010 as a tool to help individuals and organizations advance their continuity, preparedness and resiliency. The series is a part of FEMA's efforts to incorporate the whole community across all stages of their emergency management mission, to support capabilities, and to enhance national preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation of all hazards. This PowerPoint-based tabletop exercise was designed much like the previous [FEMA Planning Emergency Exercises](#) that have earned more than 8,000 downloads each across the nation. Like them, it is free, downloadable, adaptable, and complete with note pages and Virtual News Network (VNN) inject videos. This TTX also drives participants at the end to contribute to an ongoing online dialogue at [FEMA's Collaboration Community](#) on the topic, so we can continue to garner the best and brightest ideas in our nation. Download the [Whole Community: Planning for the Unthinkable Tabletop Exercise](#).

MAKE A PLAN

Tailor an emergency plan specific to you and your family's requirements. Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: How you will get to a safe place;

How you will contact one another; How you will get back together; and What you will do in different situations. Read more about [Family Communication](#) during an emergency. *Ready.gov* has made it simple for you to make a family emergency plan. Download the [Family Emergency Plan \(FEP\)](#) (PDF - 508 Kb) and fill out the sections before printing it or emailing it to your family and friends. You should also inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school, faith organizations, sports events and commuting. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to community leaders, your colleagues, neighbors and members of faith or civic organizations about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance. Read more about [school](#) and [workplace plans](#).

NEDRIX/MASSPORT CONFERENCE

The NorthEast Disaster Recovery Information Exchange (NEDRIX) and the Massachusetts Port Authority are hosting a one-day event on June 12, 2012, focusing on 'Continuity in a Changing World'. This one-day conference addresses the challenges in public and private coordination and dynamic pedagogies enacting a more integrated planning and response approach. Register for this event and attend presentations from industry leaders on Emergency Management Challenges, Social Media Crisis Response, Cyber Threats/Trends and Public and Private Sector Integration. The event will open with Keynote speaker, Susan Wornick of WCVB-TV, on the Role of News in Situation Assessment, Escalation, and Public Notification and end your afternoon with a tour of the Mass. Port Authority EOC provided by Fire Chief Robert Donahue. To see the conference program and to register, go to: www.nedrix.com/upcoming.php.

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